



RESPONSIBLE REFORM **FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS** DEMOCRATS.SENATE.GOV/REFORM

Washington: The Cost of Inaction

Washington Families Suffer

Washington insurance premiums skyrocket

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$5,011.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$11,423.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$26,040, a 128 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 41.7 percent of projected Washington median family income.

More uninsured Washingtonians

- ✓ Every day, 390 Washingtonians lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 1,605,000 Washingtonians under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 27.7 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 741,450 Washingtonians under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 13 percent of the under 65 population.

Washingtonians pay higher premiums due to the uninsured

- ✓ Washington families pay a “hidden tax” of \$1,300 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

Fewer choices due to consolidated market

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Washington have a combined market share of 61 percent.

Washington Businesses Suffer

Fewer Washingtonians have health coverage at work

- ✓ In 2002, 65.9 percent of Washingtonians under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 64.6 percent of Washingtonians had coverage through their employer.

Fewer Washington small businesses offer health coverage

- ✓ In 2000, 48.8 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 41.1 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

Washington Economy Suffers

Health care spending climbs

- ✓ In 2004, Washington spent \$31.6 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$5,092 per capita, and is 12.6 percent of the Gross State Product.

Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health

- ✓ This year, the Washington economy will lose \$2.4 billion - \$4.7 billion due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.